

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ASMARA 00636 240927Z

17

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 OMB-01 ACDA-05 SY-05 USSS-00 OPR-02 A-01

PER-01 FBO-02 IO-10 /091 W
----- 048540

R 240829Z JUL 75

FM AMCONSUL ASMARA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3466

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON

COMNAVTELCOM WASHDC

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN

COMIDEASTFOR

NAVCOMMUNIT ASMARA

NAVCOMMSTA NEA MAKRI

C O N F I D E N T I A L ASMARA 0636

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS ET

SUBJECT: ASMARA ATMOSPHERICS

REF: ASMARA 0633

1. FROM ABOUT 1630 TO 1930 HOURS LOCAL ON WEDNESDAY, JULY 23, ETHIOPIAN MILITARY STAGED A REPEAT PERFORMANCE OF THE AIR AND GROUND ATTACKS ON THE VILLAGE OF TSADA CHRISTIAN. CONGEN HAS VARIOUS REPORTS ON MOTIVATION FOR THIS. ACCORDING TO SOME, FEDERAL TROOPS ENCOUNTERED SERIOUS INSURGENT RESISTANCE IN THE AREA AND CALLED IN AIR STRIKES. ACCORDING TO OTHERS, STRIKES WERE PREEMPTIVE IN NATURE INTENDED TO COMPLETE NEUTRALIZATION OF AREA.

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PAGE 02 ASMARA 00636 240927Z

2. FOLLOWING CESSATION THIS ACTION, NO FURTHER FIRING WAS HEARD IN OR AROUND ASMARA LAST NIGHT. AT VARIOUS TIMES DURING THE NIGHT I DID HEAR WHAT MUST HAVE BEEN ELEMENTS OF THE 2ND DIV. REACTION FORCE PATROLLING ASMARA, BUT THERE WAS NO FIRING.

3. I TOURED ASMARA STARTING AT 1000 HOURS LOCAL THIS MORNING. NORMAL LIFE APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN RESUMED. MOST SHOPS ARE OPEN; NORMAL-SIZE CROWDS IN EVIDENCE. SOMEWHAT GREATER THAN USUAL NUMBERS OF SECURITY FORCES VISIBLE. FEWER CARS THAN USUAL, PRESUMABLY BECAUSE OF INTERRUPTION OF GASOLINE SUPPLY. HORSE CARTS IN NORMAL NUMBERS BUT VIRTUALLY NO BICYCLES. LATTER PRESUMABLY STILL LOCKED UP BY OWNERS AS RESULT SEIZURE THREAT. ATMOSPHERE FOLLOWING PEACEFUL NIGHT CONSIDERABLY MORE RELAXED THAN IN PAST FEW DAYS.
SHERRY

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NNN

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